

June 24, 2013

The Honorable Chris Coons  
United States Senate  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
United States Senate  
404 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
United States Senate  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coons, Senator Collins and Senator Reed:

We would like to express our strong support for the bipartisan Weatherization Enhancement and Local Energy Efficiency Investment and Accountability Act. Millions of low-income Americans currently live in housing that needlessly wastes energy. Through this legislation, Congress has the opportunity to grow and modernize the ways in which these homes can be retrofitted, which will create numerous financial, health and environmental benefits for families and communities.

We applaud your legislation's recognition of the longstanding benefits that have been provided through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and State Energy Program (SEP). We also strongly support the additional authorization of a new weatherization innovation program enabling housing and energy nonprofits to compete for grants to retrofit low-income homes, as well as the requirement to establish minimum professional standards and certifications through WAP.

As you know, WAP has benefited low-income families by making their homes more energy efficient for decades. Since 1976, WAP has funded energy efficiency upgrades in more than 7 million homes and weatherized 1 million homes in the last 4 years alone. By helping these families, WAP has both increased housing affordability and enhanced housing stability, while greatly contributing to the economic development of communities by employing local contractors and reducing the upward pressure on the cost of energy.

Through SEP, states have been able to develop strategies to address their energy priorities, which has resulted in positive improvements in all sectors of the economy and in the adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy products and technologies. SEP is a key economic development program and studies have shown that for every federal dollar invested, over \$7 is saved and \$11 in non-federal funds are leveraged.

Complementing the success and goals of the core WAP and SEP, the authorization of competitive weatherization grants for eligible housing and energy non-profit organizations will leverage private funding to increase the reach of limited federal funds, significantly furthering energy efficiency efforts for low-income families. The legislation also ensures that appropriate standards and certifications are in place as weatherization activities are carried out by appropriate entities.

The need for increased energy efficient home retrofits for low-income families is significant. Thus, it is critical that the leading federal weatherization program is strengthened so that the most advanced technologies, practices and innovations are used to maximize limited federal resources, and assure

quality standards. This legislation provides an important opportunity to accomplish these goals while also increasing the number of low-income homes that receive energy efficiency assistance.

Together we thank you for spearheading this important legislation, and through your leadership giving Congress an opportunity to enhance improvements in our nation's most effective state energy and weatherization programs.

Sincerely,

Alliance to Save Energy  
American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE)  
Association of State Energy Research & Technology Transfer Institutions (ASERTTI)  
Business Council for Sustainable Energy  
Conservation Services Group  
Earth Day Network  
Efficiency First  
Energy Future Coalition  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Environment America  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)  
Habitat for Humanity International  
Institute for Market Transformation  
Intelliroof  
Interfaith Power & Light  
Masco Corporation  
National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP)  
National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)  
National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)  
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)  
Northeast Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC)  
Rebuilding Together  
Sierra Club  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)